

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for distributing files and transmitting/receiving the distributed files, comprising:

5 a file distribution/transmission/reception module depending upon an application program executable in a client computer and performed in a background process of a corresponding application program execution module, the file distribution/transmission/reception module receiving files  
10 designated on a host computer from a network and storing the received files while an application program is executed, or transmitting corresponding files to another client computer if the corresponding files exist, in response to another client computer's request for transmission of the files designated on  
15 the host computer.

2. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the file distribution/transmission/reception module sends a request for the transmission of the files designated on the host computer  
20 to at least one client computer connected to a sub-network, and receives corresponding files from a client computer selected from among client computers, connected to the sub-network, responsive to the file transmission request.

25 3. The system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the file

transmission request is sent to other client computers connected to the host computer, if no client computer connected to the sub-network is responsive to the file transmission request, and corresponding files are received from a client computer selected from among the other client computers, connected to the host computer, responsive to the file transmission request.

4. The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the file transmission request is sent to a file storage computer designated by the host computer, if no client computer connected to the host computer is responsive to the file transmission request, and the corresponding files are received from the file storage computer.

5. The system as set forth in claim 4, wherein the file storage computer is the host computer.

6. The system as set forth in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the files received by the file distribution/transmission/reception module are stored in a predetermined folder.

7. The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein the files received and stored by the file

distribution/transmission/reception module are update files for the application program.

8. The system as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

an update execution module for updating the application program execution module using stored update files at an update time.

9. The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein the files received and stored by the file distribution/transmission/reception module are associated with an installation or execution of another application program.

10. The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein the files received and stored by the file distribution/transmission/reception module are data files readable by the application program or another application program.

11. The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the file distribution/transmission/reception module receives a list of currently connected clients from the host computer, and sends the file transmission request to client computers contained in the client list.

12. The system as set forth in any of claims 1 to 5 or  
claims 7 to 11, wherein the file  
distribution/transmission/reception module checks a file  
transmission error for completely received files when the  
application program is executed such that a corresponding file  
can be re-transmitted when the corresponding file is  
erroneous.

13. The system as set forth in any of claims 1 to 5 or  
claims 7 to 11, wherein the files designated on the host  
computer have transmission priorities for client computers.

14. The system as set forth in any of claims 2 to 5 or  
claims 7 to 11, wherein the file  
distribution/transmission/reception module carries out an  
offset division operation for a corresponding file on the  
basis of the number of client computers responsive to the file  
transmission request within a predetermined time, receives  
data of different offset areas from the responsive client  
computers, combines items of the data of the different offset  
areas into a single file, and stores the file.

15. The system as set forth in any of claims 1 to 5 or  
claims 7 to 11, wherein a CPU occupancy ratio of the file

distribution/transmission/reception module is relatively smaller than that of the application program execution module such that influence of the file distribution/transmission/reception module executed in the background process with respect to the application program execution module executed in the foreground process can be minimized.

16. The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein the file distribution/transmission/reception module is repeatedly executed and stopped in the background process of the application program execution module in a very short time at a predetermined time interval.

17. The system as set forth in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the file distribution/transmission/reception module updates information of a file transmission state and then the updated information is stored in a computer designated by the host computer.

18. The system as set forth in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein a list of files designated on the host computer is received from the host computer every time the application program is accessed.